

METEM CORPORATION

SITE DESCRIPTION

The site, located in Parsippany, Morris County, New Jersey is an active contract metalwork machining facility which manufactures non-traditional aerospace hardware and a wide variety of metal objects for large corporations. The facility, which is approximately 7.4 acres in size, has been in operation since 1968.

PAST ACTIONS

An inspection of the site by the NJDEP in 1984 revealed numerous RCRA violations, including a waste oil and trichloroethane spill in the drum storage area. At that time, the ground surface in the storage area was not paved. The contaminated soils excavated as a result of the spill, as well as waste oil drums improperly stored at the site, were manifested offsite for proper disposal. The NJDEP entered into an ACO with the company in 1985 which resulted in improved waste handling procedures. There reportedly have been no other violations since that time.

Samples collected during an SI in 1993 revealed elevated levels of chromium, cobalt, and nickel, and low levels of VOCs, in soil from the drum storage area and in the sediments of a nearby stream (Eastman's Brook). Chromium was also detected in a nearby wetland. At the time of the SI there were no monitoring wells at the site.

DISCUSSION

A site reconnaissance was conducted by Removal Program personnel on May 16, 1997. The site is located in a commercial/industrial area. Lake Parsippany is situated approximately 0.5 miles northwest of the site. The facility consists of a large, one-story building with a process area at the rear. At the time of the site reconnaissance, approximately 60 cars were noted in the parking lot. Most of the property appears to be either paved or grassed.

The southwest corner of the property is used for loading and as an outdoor drum storage area. From the available vantage point, a determination could not be made whether this area was paved. Approximately 20 drums were evident in the storage area. A fence is evident around most of the property except along a portion of the rear boundary. Signs warning of sulfuric acid are visible along the building in the rear yard. Storage tanks in this area are used for processing and waste treatment. The waste treatment is for removal of metals from spent acid. The filter cake generated from this operation is shipped offsite approximately every two months for reclamation of metals. The material is stored in a 30-cubic yard lined dumpster.

The containers in the drum storage area contain food-grade waste oils used in the electric discharge machining process. These

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waste oils may be contaminated with trace amounts of nickel, cobalt, chromium, and copper. Waste solvents generated by a vapor degreasing process and stored in drums may also be kept in this area. Similar contaminants have been noted in the soil and sediment samples collected at the site and in Eastman's Brook.

The nearest municipal water supply well is located approximately 1.1 miles north of the site and is 100 feet deep. This well is part of a blended system. The direction of ground water flow is generally southeast, but a local component may flow towards Lake Parsippany. It is reported that the municipalities of East Hanover and Montville have populations totaling almost 10,000 persons that are served by private drinking wells. East Hanover and Montville are both located at least two miles from the site, to the southeast and northeast, respectively. There are no available reports that indicate that any wells have been impacted by the site.

Based on the available information, Metem Corporation does not appear to be eligible for a CERCLA removal action at this time. The site is not listed on the NJDEP's ~~Known~~ Contaminated Site List~~x~~. It is recommended that ground water samples be collected in the area to determine if there has been a release to the aquifer.

REFERENCES

U.S. EPA, Site Inspection Report, August 30, 1993.